

**FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 18, 2022**

The Foreman City Council met for the regular session on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 in the Foreman Community Center.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harp at 4:13 p.m. due to technical difficulties with Zoom. Prayer was offered by Joyce Green and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roger Quilty, Recorder/Treasurer was asked by Mayor Harp to call the roll. Present were Alana Cody, Jacqueline Wiseman, Joyce Green, Mike McKee, and Perry Young. Tommy McDonald joined the meeting via Zoom. Deputy Recorder/Treasurer Theresa Woods, Water Superintendent Eddie Smith, and Mayor Harp were also present. Roger Quilty stated we had a quorum.

Regular Session:

The minutes for the regular meeting of December 27, 2021 were presented for review, revision and approval. Jacqueline Wiseman made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Joyce Green seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report was presented for review and approval. Mike McKee asked about the amount of \$2,703.97 and Theresa Woods stated that was for the culvert on Dollarhide St. Mike McKee also asked about the \$572.36 cost of the cotter pin and pin fastener for the John Deere backhoe. Mayor Harp explained it was a different size for the John Deere backhoe and had to be adapted to fit it. Mike McKee then made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Jacqueline Wiseman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Citizens wishing to address the Council:

None

Department Reports:

Administration:

Code Red System

Mayor Harp asked Mike McKee for an update on the meetings he attended on the Code Red system. Mike McKee stated he talked to Rudy Hatridge, Little River County Office of Emergency Management Coordinator and has met with the Judge Mike Cranford. Mike McKee stated there are issues with the littlerivercounty.org website working with the Code Red System. The web designer is working out the bugs. Mike McKee said right now there are three administrators, Rudy Hatridge, Vickie Williamson, and Judge Cranford. Once the system is up and running they will train people from Foreman and Ashdown. Mike McKee said until we have someone trained, we will contact one of the three administrators and they will send the code red message for Foreman.

LRC Sheriff Contract

The mayor stated he still has not met with LRC Sheriff's office and Judge Cranford to discuss the sheriff contract.

City Hall Roof

The Mayor stated he was still working on getting bids for the city hall roof. Perry Young asked what we were waiting on and Mayor Harp stated he was trying to find a contractor to get a bid. The conversation went on to discuss we needed a sloped metal roof. All were in agreement. The mayor stated he would be getting in touch with a contractor to look at the roof.

Badger Meters

Mayor Harp stated everyone knew about the money for the transmitters that was included on the 2022 Water budget. Mike McKee asked if we have paid Badger for the transmitters. The mayor said we will not pay until we receive the transmitters but the transmitters had to be ordered by January 14, 2022.

Law Enforcement

Alana Cody asked about the Sheriff's Department Contract and what they wanted us to pay. The Mayor stated since the original contract, the LRC Sheriff's Department has not gone up on the price. He stated they have raised the officer's pay every year and they want us to absorb a portion of the cost. Mayor Harp said he is supposed to have a meeting with the Sheriff and Judge Cranford. Tommy McDonald moved we cancel the contract with the Sheriff's Department and get our own law enforcement back. Mike McKee asked if we have a plan in place. Tommy McDonald stated we were supposed to have a plan a long time ago and research it, but nobody's ever done that. Tommy again stated that it is a motion. Perry Young seconded the motion. Mike McKee asked for discussion time. He said he understands the reasoning behind it, but he doesn't understand how we can do it if we don't have a plan in place. Mike McKee stated we don't have any money allotted to go out and purchase cars or hire people. Perry Young asked how much we are paying the county each month. Alana Cody stated it was about \$7,800. The Mayor said if we start our own department then we will have to pay the dispatch fees and the court costs that we are not paying now. Tommy McDonald stated if we don't do anything, then nothing will ever be done. Mayor Harp said we would have to determine what we could pay a qualified marshal and a qualified deputy. He said the job is more than just going out and writing tickets. They have to be qualified and meet state standards. Perry Young asked what the County was paying for their deputies. The Mayor said they were getting about \$20.00 an hour. He also stated the Ashdown Police start at \$18.00 an hour. There was a lengthy discussion that followed. Tommy McDonald stated he would be willing to withdraw his motion if we have a plan to reinstate the Foreman Marshal's office at the next council meeting. Perry Young said we need to search for a vehicle and look for a deputy that would be interested in coming to Foreman. He said we need to determine what we are going to need to pay. The mayor asked Tommy McDonald if he wanted to withdraw his motion. Tommy stated if he had the mayor's word they would have a plan by the next council meeting he would withdraw. Perry Young, Joyce Green and Alana Cody spoke of the different information that would be needed. Mayor Harp asked Perry Young if he knew where to purchase a car and if he would check into it. Perry Young agreed. The Mayor stated he would get him the financial information for the Police Department. Tommy McDonald asked who we would have to talk to to reinstate our Marshal's office. The Mayor said that was Standards and they just took it away about three years ago. Alana Cody said she wasn't sure what they were talking about. The Mayor said when you have a Marshall's office, it is just like any police or Sheriff Department, and you have to be licensed through the State. Mayor Harp said that is something we would have to do. Mike McKee asked if we would be going back to elected or an appointed position. Perry Young asked Mike McKee if he would find out if they had to be either elected or appointed. Joyce Green stated that since it is in the middle of the year,

she believes the individual can be appointed until the election. Tommy McDonald withdrew his motion.

Mayor Harp told Tommy McDonald he sent an email to Lanny Richmond, Municipal League Lawyer, about the code enforcement and animal control, and was still waiting to hear from him.

Animal Control

Mayor Harp asked Water Superintendent Eddie Smith if there was anything to report. He said there wasn't. Mayor Harp told Tommy McDonald he sent an email to Lanny Richmond, Municipal League Lawyer, about the code enforcement and animal control, and was still waiting to hear from him.

Parks Department

Tommy McDonald stated since the last time we met, he got with a licensed electrician and they ran power to the north and south baseball fields and had them hooked up. The scoreboards have power to them. He said the electrician set it up with remote control to turn the power on and off and it works pretty good. Tommy reported the grinder station has power connected and just waiting on the sewer connection and the pumps to be installed in it. He said the Park Commission had a meeting scheduled but everyone was coming down with Covid and had to cancel. Foreman Youth Sports Association (FYSA) wants a plan in place for the mowing of the ballfields and they will address that at the next meeting. He spoke again regarding the Foreman School Superintendent, Mrs. Pat Tankersley, who was nice enough to let him go through the old high school and get things to furnish the concession stand such as bathroom stalls, rugs, paper towel dispensers, soap dispensers, toilet paper dispensers, chairs, mirrors for the restrooms, trash cans, desks, storage shelves, and a few tables. Tommy stated Mrs. Tankersley let him have the items at no charge since it was all being repurposed for the kids. A shout out to Mrs. Tankersley for helping the park.

In regard to the park, Mike McKee asked where we were in settling with the contractor Jimmy Anderson on the contract for the park. The Mayor stated it is done and the final check was written. Mike McKee asked how much we ended up paying. Tommy McDonald stated it was the total grant given to us by the Sunderland Foundation, \$250,000. He said it didn't cost the taxpayers anything. Mike McKee asked about the hiring of the lawyer to go to court if needed. Mayor Harp said the attorney was not needed and was not hired. Tommy McDonald stated he had worked with City Attorney Thad Bishop and they were able to come to an agreement with Jimmy Anderson.

Street Department

Water Superintendent Eddie Smith was asked if he had anything for the Street Department. Eddie reported they were waiting to get some asphalt. Perry Young asked how long it would take to get it and Eddie Smith said he did not know. Mayor Harp stated he was going to get another load of asphalt last month but we didn't have the money. He said we have \$79,000 in Infrastructure, and it is up to the council if they want to get some asphalt and get some of these holes filled up. Perry Young asked how much it cost. The Mayor stated it is right around \$4,000. Perry Young asked how many yards that would be and the Mayor said about 22 maybe. The Mayor said the county will chip n' seal some of the city street for the cost of materials but the city will have to patch the potholes. Mayor Harp said the roads need to be pretty close to smooth to do the chip n' seal otherwise we will have the same problem we have right now. The Mayor

said he didn't know how far the asphalt will go. He said we still have gravel to fill some of the deep holes and we need to asphalt the roads where the new culverts were installed. Jacqueline Wiseman asked which street were going to be done. She said we had a list and she didn't think we have done those. Mayor Harp said no because we haven't got the holes patched yet. The Mayor said the ones we have down in the minutes will be the ones to be done first. Alana Cody made the motion to use the Infrastructure money to purchase the load of asphalt and it was seconded by Tommy McDonald. Motion carried.

Water Department

Water Superintendent Eddie Smith was asked if he had anything for the Water Department. He said he was just waiting for the meters to come in. He said they had a meeting set up with Badger but Theresa Woods was sick and they had to wait until she was back. Theresa Woods stated Glenn Spears has submitted the NPDES Permit for the renewal for the sewer pond.

Sanitation Department

Mayor Harp stated the Sanitation was running good.

Unfinished Business

Stephens Street still needs to be repaired where the city repaired a water leak. Mayor Harp stated we needed to go and scrape some of the gravel off the top and put asphalt down over it.

Mayor Harp said he has tried to get a man from Texarkana to come out to give an appraisal on the Case backhoe but that never happened. He stated he contacted Mr. Nutt with Nutt Auctions about putting the Case backhoe in their auction. The Mayor said Mr. Nutt is going to have an auction next month and we could legally have him put the Case backhoe in the sale. Mayor Harp stated there would fee for running it through their auction and was unsure of what the fee would be. He said they go nationwide with this auction and they also do internet bids. Alana Cody asked when the auction would be held. Mike McKee said he thought it was the 17th of February. Mayor Harp said we would have to hire someone to haul the backhoe to Mr. Nutt in Garland City, AR. The Mayor stated that running it through the auction may be a better way to get money back from the backhoe than trying to run it in a sealed bid just one time in the paper. Mike McKee asked if the Case backhoe mechanical issues were something that we could reasonably fix and maintain or were we better off getting rid of it. The Mayor stated that we were better off getting rid of it. Joyce Green made the motion to send the backhoe for auction by Nutt Auction and pay Nutt Auction applicable fees and travel expenses to transport the backhoe. Perry Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tommy McDonald asked about the dump truck the county gave us. Mayor Harp said he had planned on pulling the transmission out of the city dump truck and put it into the county dump truck. Mayor Harp said he has spoken to the diesel mechanic over by the Pawn Express and he can do the work but he has not been back over to talk to him. Mayor Harp said he doesn't know what it would cost but the engine in that truck that the county had is good, and a few more horsepower than the one we have but the transmission is shot. Tommy McDonald stated that he would sure like to see it get done. The Mayor said that it will take some time. They agreed that they could sure use the truck.

Mike McKee brought up the contract proposal from Walnut Hill for installing fiber optic to the City of Foreman customers. The Mayor stated Walnut Hill did submit the grant application for

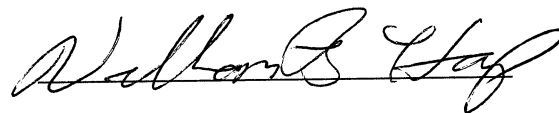
the City of Foreman and they did not get approved on the first go round of grants but the application is still in. Mayor Harp said he has spoken to Buster Brady from Walnut Hill and it would be a few more months and another round of the submitted grant applications would be selected. Mike McKee asked about Premier and Mayor Harp stated they had not been selected on the first round either. The mayor reminded everyone that Premier had submitted a grant application for both Federal and State.

Alana Cody asked the Mayor Harp if he had spoken with the city attorney about if it is legal and if the mayor had the authority to write tickets for Animal Control and Code Enforcement violations. The Mayor stated he emailed Lanny Richmond at the Municipal League but he hasn't got a response back from him. A brief discussion followed concerning the different ways the city could enforce the ordinances.

Perry Young showed pictures to Mayor Harp of the back of a building on Schuman St. which adjoins the 4K Grocery store. Perry Young stated if the wall falls it will damage the wall to the 4K Grocery. Alana Cody asked if the city could send a letter to the owner of the building and the Mayor stated we could. Joyce Green asked if the City Attorney could send the letters. Mayor Harp stated that he could and it would go out on city letterhead.

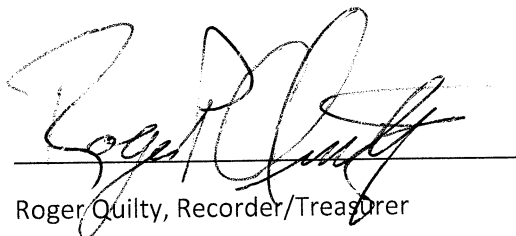
Mike McKee asked if there was any way we could schedule a workday for the spring and have a community Spring Clean-up Day. Alana Cody stated the first time we had a clean-up day they made some big headway. Mayor Harp said he didn't know how they got it done before, but they had high school football teams and cheerleaders from the school and donated money to their organizations for their participation. Theresa Woods stated Mayor Judy Adams got businesses to give donations. Mayor Harp stated they could probably plan something. Mike McKee said it needed to be more than one day. Mayor Harp said maybe for a week or two weekends in a row. A discussion followed.

Jacqueline Wiseman made the motion to adjourn the meeting until next month on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, due to the President's Day holiday. Alana Cody seconded the motion. Motion carried.



William B. Harp, Mayor

Attest:



Roger Quilty, Recorder/Treasurer